

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-26 were pending. By Restriction Requirement dated May 18, 2006, claims 17-26 were withdrawn from substantive consideration. At the outset, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 7-8, 10 and 12-16. [7/28/2006 Office Action at p. 3]. Claims 3-5 were said to be allowable, but were objected to solely for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. [7/28/2006 Office Action at p. 3]. By this paper, claims 3 and 5 are amended into independent form. The amendments to claims 3 and 5 are not intended to narrow or otherwise limit the scope of these claims. These amendments are believed to render moot the objection of these claims solely as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Accordingly, claims 3-5 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 7 is amended to delete "same" and "repeatedly" in line 3 and "the" in line 5. Claim 12 is similarly amended. The claims were already found to be allowed, and these amendments are not intended to narrow the scope of these claims in any way. Accordingly, these amendments are not made for any substantial reasons related to patentability.

No new matter will be added to this application by entry of these claims.

As to the merits, claims 1-2, 6, 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,225,916 to Sugimoto et al. ("Sugimoto") in view of Japanese Patent No. 406153281 to Miyazaki ("Miyazaki"). [7/28/2006 Office Action at pp. 2-3]. By this paper, claims 1, 2, 6, 9 and 11 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 1-2, 6, 9 and 11 are respectfully asserted to be moot.

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Paper dated October 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated July 28, 2006

CONCLUSION

For the above-stated reasons, this application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 13-4500, ORDER NO. 1232-5275.

Respectfully submitted,
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